

A NEW SPECIES OF GALIUM ( RUBIACEAE) FROM GUATEMALA

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In the course of preparing a manuscript on the genus Galium for the Flora of Guatemala, I found one collection which cannot be included in any named species. It belongs to that group of perennial species having four leaves to a node, and dry fruits with uncinete hairs, which may reasonably be designated as the G. uncinulatum complex, including, among other species, the following from Mexico and Central America: G. uncinulatum DC., G. nelsonii Greenm., G. seatonii Greenm., and G. orizabense Hemsl. The new species most resembles G. nelsonii, from which it differs by the 1-nerved petiolate leaves, the pyramidal inflorescence, the concentration of hairs on nerve and petioles (which may prove to be variable), and the pedicels sharply bent just below the ovaries.

GALIUM QUICHENSE Dempster, sp. nov.

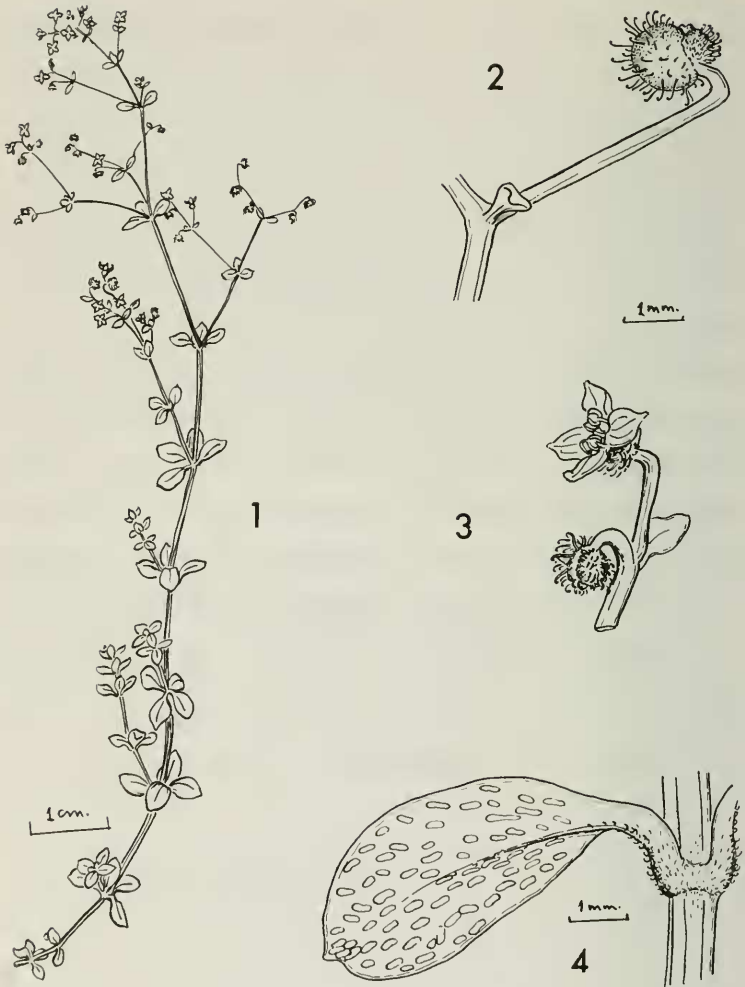
Herbae perennes procumbentes caulibus glabris vel minute pubescentibus; foliis 3-7 mm. longis, aliquantum crassis, uninerviis, in petiolos abrupte angustatis, laminis ellipticis vel orbicularibus apiculatis, paginis superioribus paene glabris vel pilis paucis brevibus obtectis, paginis inferioribus glabris, glandibus dispersis refertis, costis ad basin versus pilis crassis ascendentibus dense instructis; inflorescentiis pyramidalibus terminalibus, pedicellis infra ovaria valde flexis; floribus perfectis, corollis rotatis cremeis glabris, apicibus obtusatis; fructibus siccis, pilis uncinatis instructis.

Procumbent perennial herbs, 10-30 cm. high from a slender taproot or small rootcrown, sometimes rooting at the nodes; stems entirely glabrous, or the sides set with minute upwardly-curved hairs; leaves 3-7 mm. long, 1-nerved, somewhat thick, tapering rather abruptly to a petiole, the blades broadly elliptical to orbicular, apiculate; leaf blades nearly glabrous or with few short hairs on the upper surface, the lower half of the midrib and the petiole densely set beneath with short stout upwardly-curving hairs; lower leaf surface densely and evenly dotted with large glandular cells; inflorescence terminal, pyramidal; pedicels 1-3 times as long as the flowers, very sharply flexed just below the ovary, elongating and becoming more divaricate in fruit; flowers perfect; corollas rotate, cream-color, glabrous, the apices obtuse; fruits dry, 1-1.25 mm. across, set with uncinata hairs, one carpel often abortive.

GUATEMALA: El Quiché, near junction of Nebaj road with road between Sacapulas and Cunen, alt. 6,700-7,300 ft., June 25-August 17, 1964, George R. Proctor 25139 (type, LL; isotype IJ).

The type collection is the only one known, but the material is abundant, and it is probable that more than one individual is involved.

I wish to thank Rimo Bacigalupi for verifying the Latin.



Galium quichense Dempster. 1, single shoot with flowers and immature fruits; 2, fruit, with one abortive carpel; 3, flower and very young fruit; 4, leaf, showing distribution of hairs and glands on lower surface.